

Chicopee Register

'Soaring to high heights'...

Bowie School celebrates Dr. Seuss with style

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

When Springfield-born children's author Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel passed away in 1991, his heartwarming stories continued on, inspiring countless readers to do good in the world. Nearly three decades later in Chicopee, his words remain as alive as they ever have been.

Last Friday, the students of Bowie Elementary School saluted the positive and powerful legacy of the local hero and international icon. Students and staff members have come to view the celebration of Dr. Seuss Day as a staple of the school year.

The initiative started out small nine years ago but quickly outgrew its humble roots to become one of the most anticipated days on the Bowie Elementary calendar.

"We have 15 different staff members who dress up as characters. For the most part, we've been building up our costume supply yearly as we've been getting more characters," said Librarian Joyce Hogan, who organizes the festivity each year.

See **DR. SEUSS** page 16



STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI
Above: Fifth grade teacher Allison Swiatlowski (left) and Food Services Director Melanie Wilk pose together as Thing 1 and Thing 2 during Bowie Elementary School's Dr. Seuss Day celebration Feb. 28.

Right: The creative world of Dr. Seuss was alive during a celebration at Bowie Elementary School Feb. 28.



CENSUS 2020
Officials stress importance of U.S. Census

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COMMUNITY
Rec. basketball champs named

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BUSINESS
Adult use pot shop opens on Fuller Rd.

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Tigers get past Pacers in quarterfinals

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STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI
Polish National Credit Union President and CEO James Kelly (center) will lead the city's contingent during the annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade as Chicopee's parade marshal.

ST. PATRICK'S PARADE

PNCU CEO embraces role of parade marshal

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

A local leader has fully embraced what he interprets to be the opportunity of a lifetime. James Kelly, president and CEO of the Polish National Credit Union, will lead the Chicopee contingent during the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22.

Late last year, the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee named Kelly as its 2020 parade marshal. Kelly, a Holyoke native, passionately delved into his long-standing affinity for the event.

"I grew up right where the

parade begins in the Elmwood section of Holyoke; I remember the neighborhood kids and all the fun we had around St. Patrick's Day. In fact, I'll tell you, I met my wife there 24 years ago on St. Patrick's Day weekend," said Kelly.

Before joining Polish National, Kelly was employed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a "regulator" in New York City. After witnessing the events of 9/11, he elected to return home to the comforts of Western Massachusetts.

Kelly credits his mere existence to the ambition of his

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Chicopee Register

Bellamy students hungry for education

Funding gap looms at Riverfront

Will raise a flag in neighborhood

School Committee seat remains vacant

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Officials seek to avoid a census undercount

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Avoiding the undercount is the top priority for all those involved in coordinating the 2020 U.S. Census.

The Chicopee Complete Count Committee met in the library on Front Street Feb. 26 to strategize ahead of the federal census, which begins this month.

"I can tell you that the census is really important," said Mayor John Vieau. "It determines where your congressional districts are, where your ward districts are and every dollar matters; every person matters."

Households across the country will begin receiving mail from the U.S. Census Bureau between March 12 and 20; residents can respond to the census online, by phone or by mail.

For every Chicopee resident who responds to the census, the city will receive approximately \$2,400 per year for the decade. Zoraia De Jesus Barros, a partnership specialist with the New York Regional Census, urges individuals of all backgrounds to respond.

"Look for your mail on March 12. Look for that white envelope. You need to because it is important. Go ahead and do your part. It's a lot of money that can help your community," she said.

Veterans Services Director Stephanie Shaw explained how critical the census is to her department. An accurate count allows Shaw to provide the proper amount of resources to veterans citywide.

"Chicopee is really unique; we have the highest veteran percentage population this side of I-495 in the state," she said. "The last census we had listed about 4,600 veterans, which was 1.8 percent of the population, and the population has in-



Mayor John Vieau addresses the Chicopee Complete Count Committee and several guests during a Feb. 26 meeting in the library. The meeting sought to emphasize the importance of this year's U.S. Census.

creased. Knowing that gap helps us target our outreach and implement more programming."

Patrick Beaudry, manager of public affairs for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, spoke during the Feb. 26 meeting. The PVPC is the state-designated planning agency for the 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire counties and is set to play an important role in conducting this year's census.

"We really focus on the 'hard to count' communities, which are immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, people who live in rural areas, low income people and off-campus students. We're thinking about the strategies and messaging that will appeal to their desire to want to participate and help them overcome whatever barriers they might find," said Beaudry.

Vieau emphasized the difference between the federal census and municipal census, which was mailed to Chicopee residents in early January.

"We have to get that message out there to people that they're doing this twice; once for the municipal side and once for the federal side," he said.

All throughout this week, Chicopee students have received reminders to take home, aimed to remind parents and legal guardians to participate in the census.

"I think getting it through the schools is a really good tool and a great mechanism," said Vieau. "There was talk about making it a homework assignment; I don't know if that's been brought to anyone's attention."

From homeless residents to college students and military members, all residents must be counted. If one fails to re-



Patrick Beaudry of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission speaks to the audience during the Feb. 26 census meeting in the library's Community Room.

spond to the census, a census taker will be sent to his or her residence.

It is important to note that census takers do not enforce laws and cannot implicate individuals who are living in the city illegally.

The census is available in the 12 most-used languages in the United States. All individuals will be counted "where they sleep," said Barros.

In order to avoid an in-person visit, Barros encourages residents to respond to the census through one of the various means available.

"If you don't want a stranger knocking on your door during nights or weekends, it's better to answer the census right away," she said.

Golf tournament returns June 10, seeks sponsors

CHICOPEE — Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry will hold the annual 2020 Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 10.

The event starts at 10 a.m. at

1290 Burnett Road. There are five levels of sponsorship packages available ranging from \$250 to \$4,000. The deadline for major sponsors is May 15 and tee sponsors is May

22. For more information about the event or sponsorship, contact Ruben Reyes at ruben@lorrainessoupkitchen.com.

CRC receives water quality monitoring grant

State Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) praised the recent announcement by the state's Department of Environmental Protection and the Baker-Polito administration that the Connecticut River Conservancy is the recipient of a \$15,000 grant for watershed monitoring.

The Conservancy will use the grant to purchase bacteria sampling and analysis supplies and equipment to support the work of the Deerfield River Watershed Association, Chicopee4Rivers Watershed Council and the Fort River Watershed Association.

tion in conducting weekly and bi-weekly monitoring at 49 sites along the Chicopee, Connecticut, and Deerfield river watersheds.

"This grant is great news for our area and a good example of how state and local partnerships can enhance funding for something that is vital for everyday life," Lesser said. "It's important that we keep this information up to date to determine whether our water is safe for swimming and boating. I'm glad to see that the state is pitching in a \$450,000 increase in its second year."

2020 Fly Fishing Expo to take place March 16

LUDLOW — The Western Massachusetts Fly Fishermen Club announced the 2020 Fly Fishing Expo will cast off Monday, March 16, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Ludlow Lodge of Elks, 69 Chapin St.

Expert fishing guides, fly fishing equipment manufacturers and dealers, state wildlife experts and various other exhibitors will be on hand to answer questions, demonstrate fly tying and sell gear.

Guest speaker Dan Trela will give a presentation beginning at 7:30 p.m. titled "Fishing the San Juan River," as well as other fly fishing experiences.

Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a number of raffles, including a complete fly tying kit, a door prize raffle for a fly fishing combo kit with 30 hand-tied flies, and others.

Cost is \$7 and free children younger than 12 years old.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Elms students work in the college’s nursing simulation lab. The college’s School of Nursing recently landed in the top 10 nursing schools in the state by RegisteredNursing.org.

Elms ranks in the top 10 nursing schools statewide

The School of Nursing at the College of Our Lady of the Elms ranks in the top 10 of the “Best Nursing Schools in Massachusetts,” according to RegisteredNursing.org.

To determine the rankings, the website researched 40 nursing programs across Massachusetts and analyzed student performance on the NCLEX-RN exam over the past five years.

In 2019, Elms nursing students achieve a 97 percent pass rate, a score greater than

the national average of 91 percent.

“We are very pleased and gratified to be recognized by RegisteredNursing.org as a top nursing program in the state,” Kathleen Scoble, dean of the School of Nursing, said. “It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our nursing faculty and staff to provide a high-quality nursing curriculum for our students.”

The full rankings are viewable online at [registerednursing.org/state/Massachusetts](https://www.registerednursing.org/state/Massachusetts).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The second seeded Knights of Columbus Nets were crowned champions of the Chicopee Parks and Recreation Grade 7-8 Boys playoffs after defeating the top seeded Knights of Columbus Bulldogs 32-27 at Chicopee High School this past Saturday, Feb. 29. The Nets had a balanced scoring attack and were led by Nate Feliciano’s 10 points. Ethan Cote chipped in 8 points for the Bulldogs, who won the regular season title after going undefeated at 10-0. The K of C Ballers, AJAC Raptors, Tigers AC Celtics, and Tigers AC Bulls rounded out the teams in the week long tournament.

Legislators to hold forum on crumbling foundations

MONSON – State Rep. Brian Ashe, D-Longmeadow, and Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, announced a public forum to update Western Massachusetts residents on the status of crumbling concrete foundations across the state.

The forum will take place Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at Granite Valley Middle School, 21 Thompson St., Monson. Following a brief presentation, there will be time for questions and answers.

Many homes in Central and Western Massachusetts have been affected by the presence of pyrrhotite, an iron sulfide that

reacts with water, in the concrete building foundations. Residents will receive an update about the issue, the state’s reimbursement program and hear the final report filed by the Crumbling Concrete Foundations Study Commission.

The commission was tasked with examining the financial and economic impacts of crumbling concrete foundations by identifying affected locations and the estimated cost to fully restore the damaged foundations. The report makes recommendations regarding next steps and actions the state should take to best assist affected homeowners.

Barry School to stage ‘Frozen Jr.’

All are invited to “Let it Go” for the love of theater next week, as the students of Barry Elementary School stage Disney’s “Frozen Jr.”

Directed by Janet and Jim Maynard with choreography by Katelyn Nadeau and set/costume design by Deb Sutherland, performances will take place Thurs-

day and Friday, March 5 and 6 in the auditorium of Bellamy Middle School, 314 Pendleton Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at a cost of \$10 or \$8 for students and seniors.

For more information, call Rachel Williams at 594-3425.

MARSHAL from page 1

great-grandparents, who immigrated from Roscommon, Ireland, to New England in pursuit of the American Dream.

Kelly has long aspired to emulate the work ethic of his ancestors and live up to the example set by his mentors and former educators, the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Today, the CEO dedicates countless hours to community outreach. Kelly explained the importance of interacting with residents, something he anticipates doing in bulk on March 22.

“I really believe face-to-face contact is still the best way to do business despite all of the technology that’s out there,” he said. “I’m probably the only CEO you know in financial services that goes door-to-door

delivering 150 pints of blueberries or bundles of asparagus or bags of corn that were picked the same morning.”

The positive impact that Kelly has made on the city of Chicopee caught the eye of the parade committee. His dedication to helping others earned him the accomplishment, one so meaningful that Kelly expressed optimism it will appear one day in his obituary.

“I was speechless and was in shock when the president of the parade committee came into my office,” said Kelly. “I thought, ‘Maybe someday if I’m in the industry for another 15 or 20 years or retire, maybe that could happen.’ I’m living a dream; this is an experience that I’ll never forget.”

Kelly emphasized his belief that the parade is not meant “only for Irish people.” The day serves as

a platform for all attendees to connect with old friends and form new bonds.

“That’s the thing about parades; they bring the community together, and it’s been a huge part of my life from a very early age. This is where friendships are made and rekindled. I guarantee you that if you attend the parade, you’ll see people you haven’t seen in a while,” said Kelly, who added, “If you’re single, go to the parade. I met the love of my life, and you can too.”

The Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade was first held in 1952 and has since established itself as a regional tradition. This year marks the 69th edition of the parade, which is scheduled to begin at noon on Sun. March 22.

For more information, one can visit [holykestpatriksparade.com](https://www.holykestpatriksparade.com).

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Consumer Protection Week

The Council on Aging will host the Springfield Mayor’s Office of Consumer Information Friday, March 6 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

The Office of Consumer Information is a Local Consumer program funded by the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. Representatives will be available to answer any consumer related questions or concerns.

Census 2020

The Council on Aging will host Zoraia De Jesus Barros, a federal Census specialist Monday, March 9 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills.

This information session will highlight why the Census is important, how citizens may receive help completing it online, and how one may become a paid Census worker.

Celtic Celebration

The Council on Aging will host Davis Bates for “A Celtic Celebration” Tuesday, March 10 at 1 p.m. at RiverMills, 5 West Main St.

Bates, an award-winning storyteller, will present “A Celtic Celebration: Songs and Stories for the Season.” This program will involve audience participation in a variety of cultural traditions, which will include traditional songs from Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and stories. Light refreshments will be served.

Register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

This performance is funded in part

milling about at RIVERMILLS

by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Red Cross Ready for Seniors

The Council on Aging will offer the program “Red Cross Ready for Seniors” Thursday, March 12 10 a.m. at RiverMills.

Representatives from the American Red Cross of Massachusetts will visit RiverMills Center to present a program that focuses on disaster preparedness and safety. Although this is a free event, registration is required at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

AARP Homefit

The Council on Aging will offer an AARP HomeFit Program Monday, March 16 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Dr. Joan Simmons, professor of occupational therapy at Springfield College, will present this program, which will discuss ideas that can help improve safety in the home and decrease one’s risk of falls. Although this is a free event, advance registration is required and may be done at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Check Your Meds Day

The Council on Aging will host Louis & Clark Pharmacy for the program titled, “Check Your Meds Day” Wednesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills.

A pharmacist from Louis & Clark Pharmacy will visit the center to go over any medications folks may have questions about. Although this is a free event, registration is required, and may done at RiverMills Center.

Medication Safety Disposal Program

The Council on Aging will offer a Medication Safety Disposal Program Wednesday, March 25 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills.

Commonwealth Care Alliance will visit RiverMills to discuss safe ways to dispose of prescription medications and why it is important. A pharmacist will be available to answer questions, as well as a representative from the Hampden County District Attorney’s Office. The Chicopee Police Department will also be on hand if you would like to dispose of

any medications appropriately. While free, advance registration is requested and may done at RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

Red Sox Opening Day

The Council on Aging will host a Red Sox opening day celebration Thursday, March 26 at 1 p.m. at RiverMills.

All are encouraged to help RiverMills celebrate the opening of the 2020 Boston Red Sox season. Enjoy a hot dog, popcorn and an ice cold drink. This event is sponsored in part by The Arbors Assisted Living.

Friends seeks president

The Friends of Chicopee Senior Citizen’s Inc. is looking for a new president and recording and corresponding secretaries. Installation of newly elected officers shall take place at the June 12 meeting.

The Friends is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the city’s older adults. The Friends are a main funding source for RiverMills and the Council on Aging. The Friends meet the second Friday of every month at 10 a.m. where fundraising and progress is discussed.

For more information about becoming a member of the Friends or to learn more about the open positions contact Friends Vice President Steve Michalik at 413-532-3544.

State Senate advances bills addressing persons with disabilities, homelessness

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Senate passed two bills last week that update state laws to reflect the phrase “persons with disabilities” and creates a process for homeless adults or minors to apply for a state identification card. The persons with disabilities legislation was co-sponsored by Sen. Eric Lesser, D-Longmeadow.

“This legislation allows for vital but often overlooked practices and services to be put in place for all residents in Massachusetts,” Lesser said. “These bills are important in creating equity and

fairness as well as building pathways to success for young people and families experiencing homelessness.”

The first piece of legislation, “An act updating terminology and investigative practices related to the protection of persons with disabilities,” changes the current name of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission to the Commission for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities. The bill also updates language throughout the Commission’s statute to reflect appropriate person-first language each

time it appears.

“An act to provide identification to homeless youth and families” breaks down a major socio-economic and administrative barrier for the state’s homeless population by directing the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to implement a specific, burden-free, no cost process for those experiencing homelessness to acquire state-issued identification cards. The legislation eliminates the fee for obtaining an identification card and empowers the Registrar to accept alternative residency documentation such as by a homeless service provider or other state agency or department.

Both bills now advance to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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59						60				61				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Yields Manila hemp

6. A type of gin

10. Japanese ankle sock

14. Swiss city

15. Applied to

17. Achievements

19. Japanese title

20. Possesses

21. Belgian city

22. Child

23. Great delight

24. Petty quarrel

26. Gathered

29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire

31. Path

32. Legendary hoops coach Riley

34. A citizen of Denmark

35. Flat

37. Upper-class young women

38. Payment (abbr.)

39. Distort

40. Affirmative! (slang)

41. One who has a child

43. Without

45. Workplace safety agency

46. Political action committee

47. Period of plant and animal life

49. Swiss river

50. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

53. State of being kept secret

57. Hobbies

58. One-time Korean ruler

59. Sudden attack

60. Born of

61. Assists

CLUES DOWN

1. Ancient Greek sophist

2. Famed composer

3. Spore-bearing fungi cells

4. Chief executive officer

5. Defunct Syrian political party

6. Thin wood

7. Polynesian garlands

8. Fluid replacement (abbr.)

9. Flammable hydrocarbon gas

10. Multi-leveled

11. Influential diarist

12. Gambles

13. Many subconsciousnesses

16. Current unit

18. Illumination unit

22. Tantalum

23. Steps leading down to a river

24. Kids love him

25. Before

27. Fencing swords

28. Mountain range in China

29. Payroll company

30. A way to pack together

31. Business designation

33. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)

35. Forage fish

36. Greek temple pillars

37. Internet mgmt. company

39. Rouse oneself

42. In a way, covered

43. Elaborate silk garment

44. Cooling unit

46. Riley and O'Brien are two

47. ___ fide: genuine

48. Ancient Incan sun god

49. Poker stake

50. Trigonometric function

51. Interesting tidbit

52. Adieu

53. U.S. Treasury position

54. Midway between east and southeast

55. Doctors' group

56. Women's ___ movement

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 16

LOCAL

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ON THE SHELF



at the
CHICOPEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following is the program list for the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front St. For more information or to register for programs, call 594-1800, ext. 4.

FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Youth Chess Club
Mondays in March – 4 p.m.

Children of all ability levels are invited to the library to participate in the Youth Chess Club offered throughout the month of March on Monday evenings at 4 p.m. Learn the game or develop strategy with instructor Andy Morris-Friedman. Children younger than 9 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Call 413-594-1800, ext. 4, for more information.

FACES AND PLACES

UMass names fall
Dean’s List students

AMHERST – The University of Massachusetts-Amherst recently named its Dean’s List for the fall 2019 semester.

From Chicopee are Lina Aiman Al Sarafi, Yarangelis Saned Altun, Faiza Rafiq Awan, Ruben Basnet, Nicholas Beaulieu, Nicholas Blase Chechile, Ryan Deady, Roger C. DesRochers, Rebecca Nicole Duffy, Elio Neysi Encarnacion Jr., Evan Andrew Garber, Nicholas Cristobal Garcia, Robert N. King, Anna Kot, Allison Sara Lepine, Karol Mateusz Liebersbach, Melissa Nieves-Torres, Dante Norrington, Vidhi Patel, Aaron Charles Pitrat, Destiny Lee Rivera, Lucas Rozanski, Sebastian Ziad Salloum, Khizar Z. Shaikh, Kristiana Alyssa Tadeo, Nathan David Tellier, Heather Marguerite Thompson, Haley Lynn Whitehead, Tyler Mark Woodbury and Gianna Orminda Zamboni.

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.50 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.



AT THE REC

Lifeguard Training Class

The Parks and Recreation Department is holding American Red Cross lifeguard certification classes at the Chicopee Comprehensive High School Pool on Saturdays, March 21, 28 and at the Chicopee High School Pool on April 4. Classes will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants must attend all three classes.

The cost is \$295 per person. This course will include certification in Lifeguard Training, CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and Community First Aid. Participants must be 16 years of age on or before the end of the course. Anyone who wishes to get re-certified, a class will take place Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chicopee Comp Pool. The cost is \$210 per person.

All participants must take a pre-skills test on the first day of class to be officially enrolled in the course. Register and pay at the Parks Dept.

Tang Soo Do

The Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department is offering classes in Tang Soo Do, a Korean martial art. Come meet with Instructor Master Jeffrey Bulissa, a fourth degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do and learn about self-defense, confidence and physical fitness. Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

The following classes are being offered Little Dragons (ages 5 to 6): 6 to 6:30 p.m., Gups Beginners (ages 7 and up): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Gups (Advanced) (ages 7 and up): 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Each session consists of eight classes that run now through March 25.

Cost is \$40/Little Dragons \$50/Gups Beginner and Advanced. All classes are held at Chicopee Parks and Recreation Dept. Registration for program at the Chicopee Parks Department 687 Front St.

OPEE Summer Adventures
Staff Applications

The Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for counselor positions for the OPEE Summer Adventures program. Coun-

selors must be at least 18-years-old or 17 if they have gone through OPEE’s LIT program. The summer day program, held at Fairview Elementary School, will run seven weeks this year from June 29-Aug. 14. Staff applications may be obtained at the 687 Front St. office. For more information, contact Dan at dwoodill@chicopeema.gov.

Open Swim Program

The Parks Department will hold an Open Swim at the Chicopee High School Pool on Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. now through March 8 at a cost of \$3 per person. The program is open to residents only and positive identification is required at the door. All children 18-years-of-age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children who have not been toilet trained must have swim diapers. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 594-3481.

Houston Astros vs.
Boston Red Sox

Chicopee Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with The Travel Group, announce a trip on Friday, May 22 to see the Boston Red Sox play the Houston Astros at Fenway Park for a 7:10 p.m. game.

The package includes: roundtrip coach transportation and reserved seats in the infield grandstand (section 11, rows 11-15).

Cost is \$139 per person, and the deadline to register is Friday, April 3. There are a limited number of only 20 seats available for the trip. The bus will depart from Szot Park at a time to be determined.

To register, visit the Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department at 687 Front St. For information, call 594-3481.

Boston Red Sox vs.
Chicago Cubs

The Chicopee Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with The Travel Group, would like to announce a four-day getaway trip (June 18-21, 2020) to see the Boston Red Sox take on the Chicago Cubs for two games at Wrigley Field.

The trip includes: roundtrip air from Hartford to Chicago, Illinois, three nights at the Hampton Inn that includes breakfast, reserved tickets for two baseball games, a guided bus tour of Chicago and Navy Pier, and hotel room taxes.

Cost for the trip is \$1,299 (each) for a double, \$1,249 for a triple, and \$1,499 for single occupancy. A \$300 deposit is due at sign up, with full payment due by April 15, 2020.

To sign up, visit the Chicopee Parks Department, 687 Front St. For more information, call 594-3481.

Journalism scholarships available through NENPA

Aspiring journalists are encouraged to apply for a New England Newspaper and Press Association scholarship through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England.

High school seniors and college students studying and acquiring work experience preparing them for a career in journalism are eligible to apply.

To qualify, students must be a resident of New England, be a high school senior or college undergraduate studying journalism or a related field, and have GPA of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate a serious interest in journalism by sending a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation and a body of

published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper or similar publication or a body of work prepared for a journalism class.

The deadline for applications is March 27.

For more information or applications, visit nenpa.com/students/scholarships.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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SEEKING CLASS B
TRUCK DRIVER

Ray Haluch, Inc. is currently looking to hire a seasonal full time Class B truck driver with tri-axle experience and willingness to drive smaller delivery trucks. Truck driver is needed Monday through Friday 7:30 to 4:00 plus some hours on Saturday.

Start date will be early Spring. Starting hourly rate \$18/ hr. with paid holidays. M-F 7:30am- 4pm plus some Saturdays 7:30am- 3pm.

Please email your resume to info@rayhaluchinc.com or visit our office at 1014 Center St., Ludlow, MA between the hours of 8am-4pm to complete an application.



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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Will selling large assets affect wife's Social Security

By Russell Gloor
Guest Columnist

Dear Rusty: If I have reached full retirement age and wish to sell a \$500,000 asset, will it affect my wife's Social Security if we file jointly? I have heard that it will affect my Medicare (the amount withheld each month) but she still has three more years before she can receive benefits. Is it better to liquidate assets before she reaches FRA if we will be penalized? Would her Medicare be affected as well as mine? Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: Only earnings from working can affect Social Security benefits, so passive income from selling a large asset won't affect your wife's future Social Security benefits (nor yours). However, if your "combined income" from all sources (which is your Adjusted Gross Income plus any other non-taxable income you may have, plus 50 percent of your SS benefits) exceeds certain levels, your Medicare premium will be subject to the Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount rule, which will add a supplemental amount to your base Medicare Part B premium. If your combined income (including that sold asset) for the 2020 tax year is between \$326,000 and \$750,000 then your Medicare premium for 2022 will be at least \$462.70 (I say "at least" because the Medicare Part B premium can increase each year).

The IRMAA premium increases on a sliding scale starting at \$174,001 of combined income for a married couple filing jointly (\$87,001 for an individual). If you liquidate that large asset this year, it will be reported on your 2020 income tax return which will be filed in 2021. That will mean that your Medicare premium for 2022 will be affected by IRMAA, and so will your wife's if she has enrolled in Medicare at age 65 in 2021 (which she need not do if she has other "creditable" health care coverage through an employer).

So, should you liquidate that large asset before your wife reaches her SS full retirement age? It doesn't matter for Social Security purposes because that passive income will not affect your wife's SS benefit. But, if your wife enrolls in Medicare at age 65, her Medicare Part B premium, as well as yours, will be subject to IRMAA and, thus be considerably higher than the standard premium of \$144.60 (the amount for 2020). Note that if your combined income for the following year is low enough to reduce your IRMAA premium, the Medicare premium will revert back to the lower level. Medicare typically uses income data from two years ago to determine current year premium, so they wouldn't normally change your IRMAA premium back until they receive your income data for the previous year from the IRS. But, it is possible for you to contact Social Security earlier and provide them with proof that your income is now lower than reported in a previous year (causing the higher IRMAA premium) and they will adjust your Medicare premium sooner than they otherwise might.

Russell Gloor is a certified Social Security adviser through the Association of Mature American Citizens. This column is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

GUEST COLUMN

Joan E. B. Coombs



Dr. Seuss inspires readers of all ages

When written words remain for generations on pages entertaining and to educating the reader-- it's a legendary legacy. And, so are the quips, quotes and books written by "Dr. Seuss," the pen name of Theodor Seuss Geisel, (1904-1991), an artist and writer with immense talent and imagination.

Although he experienced the stings of embarrassment at an early age, then later as a young-adult, he had multiple rejections on his first book. Yet, later he became an award winning, globally recognized author-illustrator, and originator of unusual characters.

On March 2, Geisel's birthday, the "Read Across America" campaign by the National Education Association, not only honors the beloved children's author's birthday, it raises reading awareness in libraries all over the United States.

Geisel, of German heritage, attended schools in Springfield. Two little-known events could have discouraged him. During wartime, as a 14-year-old Boy Scout, he excelled in a contest for selling bonds. But, during the on-stage award ceremony, Geisel became embarrassed when by error the awards were short-ordered. About to receive his award, none were left! He was asked, "What are you doing here?" After that embarrassment, Geisel didn't like appearing publicly. Later, as an eager, Central High art student, he was

instructed to draw realistically. But Theodor preferred to "draw as he saw it." We are so glad he did.

At New Hampshire's Dartmouth College, Geisel continued expressing his creativity and successfully graduating in 1925. Pursuing a PhD in English, he studied at England's Lincoln College, Oxford. There he met Helen, a writer, who became his future wife. She encouraged him to pursue a career as an illustrator and cartoonist in America. Throughout their 40-year marriage (1927-1967) Geisel continued expressing his creative genius with cartoons, illustrations, poetry, prose, scripts, and internationally published books.

In 1936, while on a European voyage, the rhythm and sounds of the ship's engine inspired Geisel's first children's book, "And to think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street!"

On his way home, after receiving the 27th publisher's rejection, ready to burn the manuscript, Geisel surprisingly met a former Dartmouth classmate who asked to see his writings. Although new to the children's books industry, Vanguard Press published Geisel's book in 1937.

Life magazine noted, in 1954, that children weren't learning to read because their books were boring. William E. Spaulding, of Houghton Mifflin publishers, compiled a list of 348 important words for first-graders. Spaulding

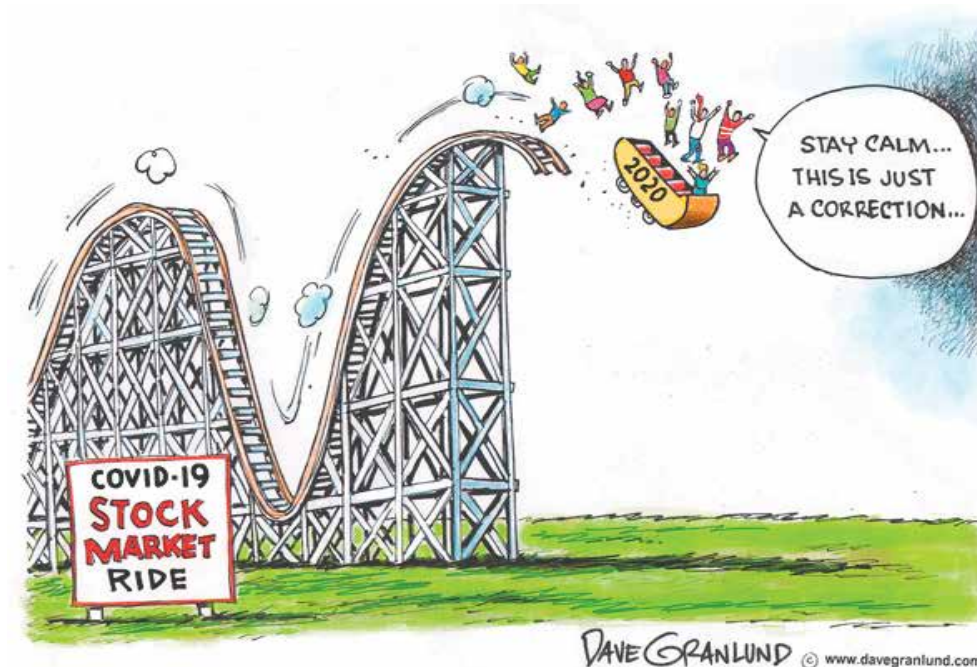
challenged Geisel to write a book only using 250 words. Geisel wrote "The Cat in the Hat" in nine months using 236 words. It achieved international fame.

Dartmouth University awarded Geisel an honorary doctorate in 1956. Dr. Seuss had profoundly influenced great reading habits among millions of children and adults across America and beyond. He authored over 60 children's books, (some with other pen names), selling millions of copies, with many books being translated into more than 15 languages. His prolific writing continued through 1990, when he wrote, at 80 years young, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

In 2002, The Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden opened locally at the Springfield Museums, with help from Audrey Geisel, his second wife. His adult step-daughter, Lark, beautifully created sculptures of Geisel and his book characters. In 2004, across the country, children's librarians began presenting annual Theodor Seuss Geisel Awards.

Also, in 2012, Dartmouth Medical School was renamed the "Audrey and Theodor Geisel Medical School" because of the many years of outstanding generosity by the Geisel family.

To this day, Theodor Geisel would be amazed at how many children and adults recite lines from his books. Yes, Dr. Seuss writings still inspire readers of all ages.



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, per-

sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

This calendar is intended to promote free events in Chicopee or events directly benefiting a Chicopee-based nonprofit organization.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

SHINING STARS GALA. The Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce will hold its 35th anniversary Shining Stars Awards Gala Friday, March 6 at 6 p.m. at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive.

Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by the program and awards at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

TEACUP RAFFLE. St. Stanislaus School announced a Silent Auction and Teacup Raffle to take place Saturday, March 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the school, 534 Front St.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

RECYCLING AND CAN DRIVE. The St. Stanislaus School Student Council will hold an Electronics Recycling and Can and Bottle Drive Saturday, May 30 from 8 a.m. to noon at the school, 534 Front St.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING. The 25th annual St. Stanislaus School Golf Outing will tee-off Sunday, May 31 at the Chicopee Country Club. Golf begins with lunch and registration at 11:45 a.m.

ONGOING

AMERICAN BOSCH SENIOR TRAVEL CLUB meets every third Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive.

AMVETS12 offers dinners twice a month at the AMVETS Post 12, 754 Montgomery St. The second Thursday of each month features a prime rib dinner served from 4 to 6 p.m.

BUILDING BRIDGES VETERANS INITIATIVE offers a free weekly luncheon for veterans at the Chicopee Lodge of Elks, 431 Granby Road, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

CHICOPEE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES is compiling a list of Purple Heart recipients connected to the city of Chicopee. Those who have received the medal or who know someone who has are encouraged to contact the Department of Veterans Services at 413-594-3470.

CHICOPEE FALLS WOMAN'S CLUB meets every third Thursday of the month (except June, July and August) at 11 a.m. at American Legion Post 452, 37 Exchange St.

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BUSINESS

Theory now reality for cannabis retailer

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Theory Wellness, Chicopee's second adult use marijuana dispensary, opened its doors to the public on Leap Day. In addition to creating 50 jobs, the cannabis retail location is expected to generate more than \$500,000 in tax revenue for the city each year.

"In our view, cannabis is going to be used by adults one way or another so it should be through a safe, regulated source that provides economic benefits," said Theory Wellness CEO Brandon Pollock.

In the spring of 2018, Theory Wellness launched a plan to establish a medical and recreational marijuana retail facility in Chicopee. Pollock attended a number of Planning Board meetings and credited the city for being an "early adopter" of a favorable zoning ordinance and permitting process.

Theory Wellness opened its first recreational marijuana facility in Great Barrington in January 2019. Thomas Winstanley, director of marketing, noted that the business attracted over 200,000 customers in its first year.

"We learned so much about our business and the industry, and this retail location is really a culmination of a lot of those learning experiences," said Winstanley. "What we really wanted to do is, from the ground up, create a space that we know will work to the needs of our company."

Mass Alternative Care on E. Main Street became the city's first recreational marijuana retail location when it opened last August. When Theory Wellness became operational last Saturday, it too set a milestone in the region's cannabis industry.

"This farm-grown cannabis is actually the first legal cannabis on the East Coast that is grown outdoors. It's a historic moment for the cannabis industry; we partnered with a local farmer named Ted Dobson in Sheffield," said Winstanley.

The shop offers 24-hour pre-order services and is open on Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The inside of the retail location is highly illuminated and designed to leave a lasting impression.

"It's all about the customer," said Winstanley. "When you come to



STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

From left Marketing Director Thomas Winstanley, CEO Brandon Pollock, Field Operations Manager Sam Haber and Scot Lee, vice president of store operations, pose for a photo minutes before the Theory Wellness recreational marijuana retail location opened its doors on Feb. 29.



Theory Wellness, a new adult use cannabis shop on Fuller Road, offers a variety of products in a space designed to keep customers at ease.

buy cannabis, we want this to be a real experience for you. We want you to be excited about having a memorable time, coming in, seeing the space and learning a little bit more."

It was made easily apparent that Theory Wellness prioritizes the safety of its consumers. Pollock believes that last fall's "vaporizer crisis" demonstrated the value of the regulated product that is available at adult use marijuana retail locations.

"I think that really brought to light the risks of the illicit market for cannabis and the reason that it makes a lot of sense to purchase your products through a safe and trusted source," he said.

From security to marketing to customer service, Theory Wellness now provides employment to doz-

ens of residents from Chicopee and Western Massachusetts as a whole. A number of employees were recruited during a job fair held last year, said Pollock.

Theory Wellness hired individuals who are "excited" about marijuana and the industry as a whole. Winstanley shed light on the formation of the 50-person team.

"We hire based off attitude and talent," he said. "We're always looking for people who are hungry and passionate; that's our criteria. It doesn't matter if you were a hedge fund manager or a gas station attendant. If you want to work here, want to work hard and are passionate about this industry, we want you on the team."

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OBITUARY

DEATH NOTICE

Roy, Irene A. (Poli)

Died Feb. 24, 2020

Mass of Christian Burial held on March 3, 2020
Saint Theresa of Lisieux Church

Irene A. Roy

(1932-2020)

Irene A. (Poli) Roy, 87, formerly of Granby Road in South Hadley, was called safely home on Monday, Feb. 24, 2020. She passed into eternal life at Mount Saint Vincent Care Center in Holyoke surrounded by the care and comfort of her loving family.

She was born in Holyoke on Oct. 5, 1932, a beloved daughter of the late Frank and Annie (Landry) Poli. She was raised on Hadley Street in South Hadley, graduated from South Hadley High School and had later lived on Mosier Street in South Hadley before moving to Granby Road. She was a communicant of Saint Theresa of Lisieux Church in South Hadley. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to her beloved family.

During her leisure time, she enjoyed playing the piano and accordion and often volunteered her talents at many local events including the South Hadley Senior Center. One of her greatest joys was taking care of her beloved grandchildren. Above all, she loved spending time with her family.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Gerard J. Roy who was called home on June 26, 2003. She leaves her five loving children, Bryan G. Roy and his wife, Sharon, of Sutton, Gerard J. "Gerry" Roy and his wife, Mary, of Chicopee, John C. Roy of South Hadley, Ann Marie Germano and her husband, Frank, of South Windsor, Connecticut, and James J. Roy and his partner, Christa Sever, of Granby; her nine cherished grandchildren, Christina Colarusso, Mathew Roy, Michael Roy and his wife, Deandra, Nicholas Roy, John Roy, Steven Roy and his companion, Brittany Lee who cared for Irene often, Francesca Germano, Adam Roy and Coletton Roy; her cherished great-grandson, Grayson; her two dear brothers, Billy Poli and his wife, Donna, of South Hadley, Frank Poli of Easthampton, her dear sister, Rosemary Chicorka of South Hadley; and her many dear nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and extended members of the Roy and Poli families. In addition to her parents and husband, she was also predeceased by her dear brother, Robert Poli.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, March 3, at Saint Theresa of Lisieux Church in South Hadley. Her burial will be private. There were no visiting hours at the St. Pierre-Phaneuf Fairview Chapels, 506 Britton St., Chicopee. For more details, visit www.stpierrephaneuf.com.



SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **March 20, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles. .

2007 KAUFMAN 50' TRAILER
VIN: 15XFW50317L002390
Heredia Trucking
700 Franklin St
Worcester, MA 01604

2008 SUBARU OUTBACK
VIN: 4S4BP62C087356834
Willie A Bynumbrown
336L Main St
Springfield, MA 01105

2009 CHEVROLET AVEO
VIN: KL1TD56E69B639798
James Lewis & Jason Lewman
455 Newton St
South Hadley, MA 01075

2009 NISSAN MURANO
VIN: JN8AZ18W99W100816
Jessenia Santiago
28 Nathaniel St
Springfield, MA

2010 FORD FUSION SE
VIN: 3FAHP0HA3AR361791
Jessica Trotter
121 Seymour St
Pittsfield, MA 01021

2016 HONDA CIVIC LX
VIN: 2HGFC4B03GH302413
Angel Luis Sanchez Arroyo
45 Meetinghouse Rd
Chicopee, MA 01013

3/05, 3/12, 3/19/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing Wednesday, **March 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-52 for the purpose of buying only two cars, fix them and then resell the cars. Would like to hold the cars in two car garage at the house

PUBLIC NOTICES

located at 101 Angela Dr. Applicant – Velma Johnson & Akeem Pitter, 101 Angela Dr., Chicopee, MA 01020. Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 3/05, 3/12/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD20C0064CA
In the matter of: Eynelda Aviles Gonzalez a/k/a Eneida Gonzalez CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Eynelda Aviles Gonzalez a/k/a Eneida Gonzalez of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Eneida Gonzalez IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/26/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 27, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **March 6, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

1998 FORD ECONOLINE E350
VIN: 1FTSE34L1WHA29307
Laverture Electric
100 State St #123
Ludlow, MA 01056

1999 KENWORTH CONSTRUCT W900
VIN: 1XKWD69X4XR825129
Boynnton Construction
156 Waldoboro Rd

Washington, ME 04574

1995 GMC SIERRA C3500 HD
VIN: 1GDKC34F6SJ526996
Laverture Electric
PO Box 448
Ludlow, MA 01056

2005 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER
VIN: 1GNDT13S952293542
Diosa Sierra
24 Ashley St
New Bedford, MA 02744

2005 SUBARU LEGACY OUTBACK
VIN: 4S4BP61C957377047
Carlos Dejesus Rosa
195 Laconia St
Springfield, MA 01129

2006 FORD F350 SUPER DUTY
VIN: 1FDWF37536ED81541
Laverture Electric
100 State St #123
Ludlow, MA 01056

2007 LEXUS ES 350
VIN: JTHBJ46G772062980
Ahmed Mohammed
1298 Hartford Tpke Apt 7D
North Haven, CT 06473

2009 HONDA PILOT EXL
VIN: 5FNYP48669B017627
Matthew Sears
19 High St
Spencer, MA 01562
2/20, 2/27, 3/05/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0031CA
In the matter of: Jackson Emmett Moore CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Jackson Emmett Moore** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Jackson Emmett Feliciano IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/20/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 21, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0055CA
In the matter of: Joseph Charles Abair aka

Joseph Charles Noyes CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Joseph Charles Abair Chicopee MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Joseph Charles Noyes IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/20/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 21, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0065CA
In the matter of: Rowena Santiago Walsh CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Rowena Santiago Walsh of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Rowena Dala Walsh IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/31/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 27, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

3/05/2020

NOTICE OF SALE
By Ma. Gen Laws c.255, Sec. 39A, **CHUCK'S TOWING, 78 West St., Chicopee, MA** is holding a private sale for a vehicle **March 11, 2020 at 2:00 PM** to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses of notices of sale.

1992 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCB7679NA198875
Owner: Maria Rivera
Date of Tow: 5-31-19

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2/27, 03/05, 03/12/2020

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Chicopee Register
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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Sports

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HOCKEY

Tigers get past Pacers in quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Whenever a high school hockey player records a hat-trick, it's always very special, especially when it takes place in a postseason tournament game.

Junior Matt Brunelle accomplished that milestone for the fifth-seeded South Hadley Tigers, who defeated the fourth-seeded Chicopee Pacers, 5-2, in a Western Massachusetts Division 3A quarterfinal match before a large crowd at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield on February 25.

"This is the first hat-trick of my high school hockey career and it feels very good," Brunelle said. "I scored one of my goals on a 2 on 1 play. I also scored a couple of goals on rebound shots. We just capitalized on their mistakes and we played very hard in tonight's game."

Brunelle finished the quarterfinal match with a total of four goals.



PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Neftali Romero advances toward the goal.

See **HOCKEY** page 10

MIAA

Statewide tournament passes, will be implemented in 2021

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

As the Western Massachusetts basketball and hockey tournaments press on this week, a new tournament is now on the horizon.

Last Friday morning, the MIAA's membership voted in favor of holding a statewide tournament in all high school sports, and will do away with sectional tournaments beginning in fall 2021.

A special meeting of the MIAA and its board of directors was held last Friday morning at Assabet Valley Technical High School in Marlboro. Every member of the MIAA was allowed to send a representative to the meeting to vote on the proposal to hold a statewide tournament.

It was clear by opinions voiced leading up to the meeting that most of Western Massachusetts' was against the proposal. Most of the opinions were that a statewide tournament would more benefit the eastern part of the state.

But with the hurried roll-out of the plan, concern of how MaxPreps would rank schools in the 32-team brackets, many more schools than expected voted now. However, majority ruled with a 193-140 vote.

"It's not the outcome I wanted," said Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton. "But now we move forward."

Stratton attended the meeting along with his building principal, Thomas Schnepf. Each member school, about 380 in the state, had the ability to vote. There were 333 votes cast in the decision.

With the vote passing, the MIAA will begin preparations to hold statewide tournaments in the fall of 2021, starting with soccer, football, field hockey, and girls volleyball. Sectional tournaments will be held during the 2020-2021 season.

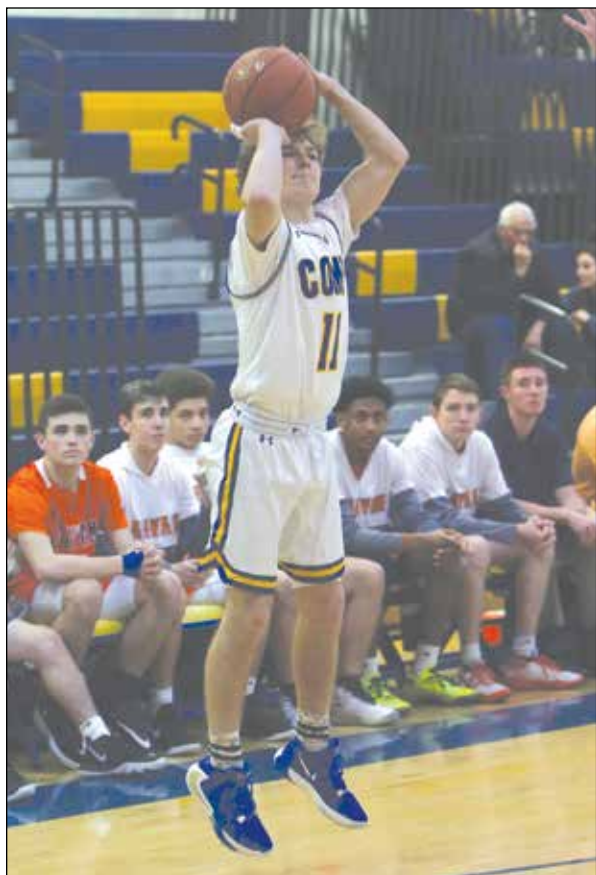
However, based on how the meeting went, the Tournament Management Committee, which created the proposal, will continue considering how to make the MaxPreps formula work. The formula was not shared with the membership, citing it being a proprietary formula. The MIAA membership did not have a vote in the implementation of Max-

See **TOURNEY** page 10

BOYS BASKETBALL

Colts fall to Brownies

CHICOPEE — The Chicopee Comprehensive High School boys basketball team fell to Agawam 64-47 on Feb. 17. In the defeat, Nathaniel Lopez led the team with 14 points. Dennis Popovichenko and Hector Viruet had 10 points each. Comp's season ends at a disappointing 5-14. The Colts did not qualify for tournament.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Travis Kagan takes a three-point attempt.



Dennis Popovichenko lifts a shot ahead of a block.



Jonathan Vandal goes after a rebound.



Hector Viruet makes an off-balance shot to avoid a block.



Nathaniel Lopez lifts a layup to the basket.

TOURNEY from page 9

Preps. For Western Mass and some Central Mass. tournaments, MaxPreps will replace the Walker system, which was used due to the diversity of the Western Mass. region and so many teams playing in leagues with teams in multiple divisions.

During the course of the next year, the MIAA will expand many of its sports to five divisions statewide. With the exception of football, most mainstream sports like soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball, have four divisions. The idea of expanding to five divisions will allow more teams to make a 32-team field as well as hopefully level the competition.

During the meeting, a brief presentation of the statewide tournament was given. Athletic directors and administrators in attendance were then given an opportunity to speak or ask questions.

Many concerns were raised over the amount of travel that could take place. The extreme example utilized was a team having to go from Lee (far Western Mass.) to Nan-

tucket (far Eastern Mass.).

Joe Gamache, representing Franklin Technical High School, said it would also be hard for parents to support their children with trips across the state like that.

His point was countered by Shaun Hart from Burlington, a member of the TMC.

"In order for this tournament to be as bad as people want to make it out to be you have to hit the lottery of playoff magic to hit the farthest ride people have mentioned," said Hart.

Alison Jordan-Ganger and William Metzger spoke from Western Mass. spoke.

Jordan-Ganger, vice principal and athletic director at Granby High School, said student representatives should have been more involved.

"They should have been here to speak their mind," she said. "We missed the boat on this one."

Metzger, principal of Monson High School, questioned how the state would approach splitting of fans if two teams had to play at far-away locations on the same day.

He was told the conflicts could be avoided with certain scheduling.

COLLEGE:

Pavoni starts college career with goals

WENHAM - The Worcester State University women's lacrosse team remained unbeaten on Saturday afternoon with a 14-3 win over Gordon College in non-conference action at the Brigham Athletic Complex.

With the win, Worcester State moves to 2-0 on the young season, while Gordon drops to 0-2.

Five Lancers scored multiple goals in the victory, paced by junior Abby Magnuson (Ellington, Conn.), who netted her fourth career hat

trick, and first of the season.

Freshmen Shea Jarvis (Auburn, Mass.) and Emily Pavoni (Granby, Mass.) each tallied their first two collegiate goals in the win, while senior Rachel Hopkins (Chelmsford, Mass.) and sophomore Maddy Brennan (Pomfret, Conn.) also each scored twice for the Lancers.

Rookie Sarah DesVergnes (Limerick, Maine) turned in her second straight strong performance to start her career, with a goal and two

assists in the win. Freshman Bridget Smestad (Branford, Conn.) and senior Sarah Cohan (Lowell, Mass.) rounded out the Worcester State scoring with a goal apiece.

In net, Chloe O'Brien (Sturbridge, Mass.) nabbed her second straight win with a two-save performance.

Worcester State will return to the field on Wednesday with a non-conference battle at Western Connecticut State. The contest is scheduled to get underway at 5 p.m.

Cougars reach playoffs with win

HOLYOKE - Men's basketball won two more regional away games this past week, making it three straight victories to close out the regular season. With the wins, the Cougars clinch a postseason playoff spot, qualifying for the New England Championship Tournament. Holyoke defeated Northern Essex CC 79-76 on Tuesday before cruising past local rival Springfield Technical CC 97-77 on Thursday.

Sophomore forward Michael Castillo (Northampton, MA / Northampton HS) has attained a remarkable achievement, having scored his 1000th career point. He reached 1000 in Thursday's game, becoming just the third HCC men's

basketball player in history to accomplish the feat. Castillo became a member of the Cougar's 500-Point Club when he scored 532 points as a freshman, and so far this season he has racked up 469 points. Castillo scored 24 points in Thursday's win which included shooting 5 for 5 from the free-throw line. Jequan Rogers (Springfield, MA / Sabis HS) had a major accomplishment of his own in the win over STCC, registering an elusive triple-double. Rogers led the Cougars in scoring on the night, tallying 26 points while grabbing 10 rebounds and dishing out 10 assists. Moashaun Alvarado (Springfield, MA / Sci-Tech HS) was dominant in both of this week's games for

Holyoke, recording a double-double in each contest. Alvarado had 29 points and 18 rebounds on Tuesday and 22 points with 12 boards on Thursday.

The Cougars end the regular season with a regional record of 12-8 and an overall record of 12-11. Their dozen wins are the most by a Cougar men's basketball team in over a decade. Early next week, Holyoke will learn who their regional championship first-round opponent will be. They could play a post-season game as early as Wednesday, Feb. 26 with the New England championship game taking place on Sunday, March 1st.

HOCKEY from page 9

"We've been waiting for Matt to have a breakout game and it finally came tonight," said South Hadley head coach Larry Camus. "He also played very well in our last game as well."

Another milestone was achieved by South Hadley senior Mike Mazza, who reached 100 career points (Goals + Assists) with three assists.

"It was also a very special game for Mazza, who got his 100th career point," Brunelle added. "We've been playing together for the past three years and our chemistry has been getting better each year."

South Hadley and Chicopee are Fay Division rivals.

The Tigers (12-7-2) went 1-0-1 against the Pacers during the regular season. They posted a 7-1 win in the first meeting, which was held at Fitzpatrick Arena in Holyoke on February 1. The second meeting, which took place 16 days later at Smead Arena in Springfield, ended in a 5-5 draw.

The Tigers also have a co-op with Granby High School. The six Granby players listed on the Tigers hockey roster are sophomore Dylan Laramie, sophomore Gabe Arabik, sophomore Kadyne Laramie, freshman Mike Arabik, Nate Loughman, and Josh Chateaneuf.

Chicopee, who doesn't co-op with another high school, finished their season with a 9-8-4 overall record.

The Pacers outshot the Tigers, 33-26, in the quarterfinal match.

"We did outshoot South Hadley in tonight's game, but we just couldn't outscore them," said longtime Chicopee head coach Al Styckiewicz. "One of our best defensemen was injured during the first five minutes of the game, which didn't help us very much."

The Pacers player, who was forced to leave the game with an injury, was senior Nolan Florence.

It was also the final high school hockey match for Chicopee seniors Samuel Fournier, Kendall Walsh, Dean Santos, Austin Scott, Alex Assab, and Evan Bailly.

"All of our seniors are great kids," Styckiewicz said. "We're going to miss them next year."

It didn't take the Pacers very long to take a 1-0 lead in the third meeting of the season against the Tigers.

Freshman Tyler Bielecki fired a shot into the net from the right circle past South Hadley goalie Anthony Cigal (31 saves) for an unassisted goal three minutes into the opening period.

Camus wasn't very concerned following the early goal.

"I wasn't really worried about the one goal deficit," Camus said. "Some of these guys have never played before in a tournament game. I just told them to settle down and let's stay with it."

The Tigers goalie made a total of 20 saves during the final two periods, which allowed his teammates the opportunity to make a comeback.



Tyler Bielecki gets ready to take an off-balance shot.



Austin Scott follows through on a shot.



Trevor Poirer makes it past a South Hadley defender on his way to the goal.



Kendall Walsh IV reaches out to get the loose puck.

"They were all over us in the first period," Camus added. "I thought Anthony played great in the final two periods. He's been solid all year long."

With a little more than three minutes remaining in the first period, South Hadley sophomore Joe Meon sent a pass to Brunelle, who put a backhand shot into the net past Chicopee junior goalie David Shea (20 saves) tying the score.

The score remained tied until there was 30.8

seconds remaining in the second period.

That's when Brunelle knocked home a rebound shot giving his team the lead for the first time at 2-1.

The duo of sophomore Aidan Sullivan and Mazza were credited with the assists.

Brunelle made a little bit of history by scoring his third goal of the contest 1:08 into the final period. The assist by Mazza gave him 99 career points.

It also gave the Tigers a little bit of breathing room.

"The third goal was key," Camus said. "We told the players in the locker room between periods that whichever team scored the next goal would control the game."

Meon scored the Tigers fourth goal on a rebound shot, which was assisted by junior Ryan Tucker, at the 10:21 mark.

With 1:31 remaining in the quarterfinal match, Brunelle capped off his career game by scoring an empty net goal increasing the Tigers advantage to

5-1. Mazza, who joined the varsity team as a freshman, was credited with the assist, which gave him 100 career points.

The final goal of the match was scored by Chicopee junior Ethan Kapienos with 1:08 left on the scoreboard.

While Styckiewicz was saying goodbye to his players following the game, Camus was starting to think about his squad's semifinal match against top-seeded Greenfield four days later.



The MacDuffie School Summer Kids Camp Registration Now Open

The MacDuffie School offers a coed, full day summer program for students entering grades 1-8. The program is offered in six, one-week sessions starting July 6th and is held on The MacDuffie School campus in Granby, MA.

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Summer at Stoneleigh-Burnham School Now Offers Day Camps in Dance and Animation

GREENFIELD, MA. Stoneleigh-Burnham School (SBS), an independent day and boarding school in Greenfield, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce day camps for their summer programs in Dance and Animation. These new

options are in addition to the boarding summer experiences that Stoneleigh-Burnham has been offering for many years.

SBS's signature summer programs are hosted by expert faculty on their beautiful 100-acre campus in Greenfield. The programs are designed for girls ages 8-18 and emphasize the development of confidence, the acquisition of skills, and the discovery of new talents.

The week-long Animation Intensive Camp occurs July 5-10 and is designed for female artists in middle and high school who are interested in 2D and 3D animation. Campers have the opportunity to work with professional artists and animators as well as develop a short film of their own design.

There are two options for the week-long Dance Intensive: July 19-25 and July 26-August 1. Designed for intermediate and advanced dancers in middle and high school, this course provides girls with the opportunity to train with professional instructors and study ballet, jazz, yoga, hip hop, and more.

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two options for this all levels, boarding-only program: July 5-18 and July 19-August 1.

According to Director of Admissions Kristen Mariotti, "We are very excited to offer these summer day camp programs as part of our initiative to make a Stoneleigh-Burnham experience more accessible to local families."

Summer Program Coordinator Liz Vollinger added, "With both boarding and day options, Summer at Stoneleigh-Burnham is a great way to introduce girls to all that SBS has to offer."

To learn more or to register, please visit sbschool.org/summer or contact Summer Program Coordinator Liz Vollinger at lvollinger@sbschool.org or by calling 413-774-2711 x272.

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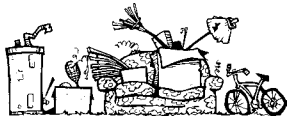
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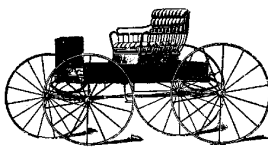
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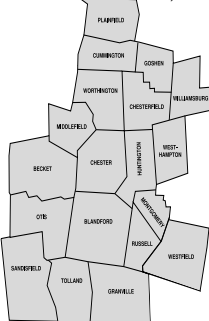
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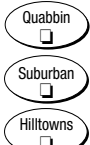
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Fifth grade teacher Kyle Fisher (left) stands next to staff member Patricia Siclari and parent Trevor Smith during Dr. Seuss Day at Bowie Elementary.



A Bowie Elementary student picks up a prize from a table during the school's celebration of Dr. Seuss Feb. 28.



Greta Schwachman, farm-to-school coordinator, helps Bowie School staff member Brian Dobosz create a LEGO hat in the spirit of Dr. Seuss.

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DR. SEUSS from page 1

On Feb. 28, the Bowie Elementary gymnasium was transformed into a creative utopia; one that brought the literary works of Dr. Seuss to life. All of the school's students partook in the fun, and a number of volunteers played a role as well.

"It's great; the students are extremely lucky," said Ward 1 School Committee representative James Tanhauser, who worked at the arts and crafts table.

"I'm impressed as always by these teachers. People may think that this is a day off, but these teachers are working as hard as they do any other day; it just happens to look more fun," he said.

Enthusiastically, a number of educators stepped outside of the classroom, and perhaps their comfort zones, to ensure that the experience was memorable for the children. Fifth grade teacher Kyle Fisher dressed up as the "Cat in the Hat" and shared his view of the day's importance.

"We cannot stress the fun and freedom to think and figure things out yourself enough now. We need more days like this where the kids can have an activity and see where it takes them. It's not always the academic part; the social aspect of it is important too," said Fisher.

Hogan's contributions were applauded by all involved. On her own dime, the librarian acquired all of the costumes that were featured during the celebration; Fisher extended his gratitude as well.

"I don't think anyone knows the amount of effort that actually goes into it. She coordinates it and doesn't make it the same every year; she constantly changes things for the kids' enjoyment. She really tries her hardest every year that she does this; she's amazing," he said.

A handful of parents took the day off from work, volunteering to play the role of a Dr. Seuss character. Trevor Smith, a serviceman who is currently stationed at Westover Air Force Reserve Base, was among them.

"It's great to be able to be a part of the school and see your kid come through the line with the rest of the kids. That they get to be this close to where Dr. Seuss was established is pretty unique," said Smith.

"We're from Pennsylvania and we're military so we go all over the place," he continued. "At her last school in Pennsylvania, they had Dr. Seuss Day, and all the kids came in with their hats. We get to go back there and say, 'Hey, this is where he was actually from.' It's a great opportunity for her."

While Hogan orchestrated the event, she deflected credit. Like Tanhauser, she credited the school's staff for its willingness to take on the challenge.

"I think that it's awesome; this would never be what it is now if it wasn't for the teachers doing this. They just are so willing to do this on a yearly basis. I just feel pretty fortunate to have such a good staff that's willing to work with me and for the kids," said Hogan.

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